LPG distributing agencies operating in Ballia (UP)

*47. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pelased to state:

(a) the total number of LPG distributing agencies operating in Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the details of LPG distributing agencies allotted to persons belonging to SC/ST communities;

(c) if no such agency exists, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when Government are likely to provide LPG distributing agencies to SC/ST people in the above district?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Three (03) LPG distributorships are in operation in Distt. Ballia (UP).

(b) None.

(c) and (d) The existing policy provides for 25% reservation for SC/ST for the allotment of dealerships/distributorships. This 25% reservations is for the entire State. No district wise reservation is made. The policy followed is to grant SC/ST dealerships/distributorships in those districts/areas which are reserved constituencies for the Parliamentary/Assembly elections. Since Ballia does not fall under this category, SC/ST reservations has not been provided in Ballia.

Health care facilities to the Railway employees in Punjab

*48. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of health care facilities made available to Railway employees in the State of Punjab

(b) the number of places in the State where health care units like hospitals, dispensaries etc. are proposed to be set up during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) For providing health care facilities to Railway employees in the State of Punjab, 4 Railway Hospitals and 9 Health Units manned by 67 doctors and 515 para medical staff are functioning.

(b) There is no such proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

Fuel modification to curb pollution

*49. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pelased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen an article entitled "Fuel modification to curb polluiton" by Shri Anil Bedi, published in the 'Pioneer' of 21st June, 1997;

(b) if so, what is the perception of Government about the issues and facts mentioned therein; and

(c) whether Government intend to study the feasibility and desirability of suggestions made in the write-up?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the effects of pollution due to vehicular emissions and have, therefore, initiated a number of measures to supply Greener fuels in the country especially in metropolitan cities. These include:—

(i) Introduction of Unleaded Petrol (ULP) in the four metros from 1.4.1995 and low lead petrol throughout the country from December, 1996. The supply of ULP would be further extended to the capitals of States and Union Territories by December, 1998 and throughout the country by March 2000.

(ii) Introduction of low sulphur HSD in the four metros and Taj Trapezium from 1.4.1996 and very low sulphur HSD in the Taj Trapezium from 1.9.1996. Very

low sulphur HSD would also be supplied throughout the country by April, 1999.

(iii) CNG which is a clean burning and environment friendly fuel has been introduced in Delhi, Mumbai and Baroda. CNG is also available in Surat.

(iv) Studies conducted by the Indian Institute of Petroleum and IOC Ltd. (R&D) have shown that petrol blends containing 3% methanol or 5% ethanol can be used by petrol vehicles without modification of engine. Substitution of diesel upto 15-20% was also found to be feasible under dual fuel mode with slight modification of engine. But the use of alcohols on commercial scale could not be undertaken due to non-availability of ethanol on a sustained basis. The Ministry of Food, Department of Sugar has set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Food) to examine the possibility of mixing of ethanol produced by Sugar Manufacturing/Distillery units with petrol/diesel.

Declining trend in use of Railways for carrying freight

*50. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that Railways have gradually been losing out to the road transport sector over the years carrying only 40 percent of the total freight; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The Government is aware that the demand for freight transport has outpaced the growth of the Railways' capacity to carry. resulting in the overflow going to the road sector.

(b) To prevent further overflow. Railways need to generate substantial additional transport capacity, warranting higher mobilisation of resources than it is able to generate at present. Railway is encouraging private sector participation in generation of additional transport capacity, through introduction of BOLT, BOO and OYWS schemes. To capture the non-bulk traffic, it has entered the inter-modal business.

Transfer of share of profits to ONGC and OIL

*51. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to transfer some share of profits by prospective Private Oilfields *viz* Reliance Industries, Videocon Ltd. and the Essar Ltd. to ONGC and OIL and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether CAG has raised serious objection on Government's decision to transfer some share of profit to ONGC and OIL; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how much percentage of this profit will go to the ONGC and OIL and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) No such decision has been taken by the Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Stress on Eco-friendly Aquaculture practices

*52. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Stress on eco-friendly aquaculture practices" which appeared in the 'News Time' dated the 6th June, 1997; and

(b) if so, the present position of prawn farming in view of Supreme Court's order?